7/29/70

Dear Dick and Harold,

Yesterday I got the Nix film from Lifton plus the Moorman copy he said would knock me off my feet.

Well, I'm still standing. What he has is the wirephoto version of the Archives Moorman copy. Nothing significant that I can see.

The Nix film is excellent. It is very clear, and appears, from my recollection, clearer than what is in the Archives. It has one disadvantage--it's incomplete in two ways. One, it does not include the sequences of JFK on Houston or some portions of the scenes after the shots. Two, the complete frame area is not shown in that all edges have at some time been cropped.

Of the scenes after the shots, there are some things of interest to me. Camera cars 1 and 2 can be seen going down Elm and they were travelling very slow, at least the original spped of the motorcade. This is probably at the urging of the photographers in the car who wanted to either leave or take pictures from their cars. It affects the timing of the pictures.

While it is barely visible at normal speed, when the slow motion version of the head shot is run backwards, it is very obvious that two motions take place on part of JFK. First his head is driven backwards, apparently as far as it will go. At this point the body seems to fall to the left, in a separate motion. I am not implying that these two motions came from two shots. It would seem that a shot drove the head backwards and one the head was pulled back, it pulled the body to the left. Because Z was taken from a slight elevation, it does not show this quite as well. It's virtually impossible to make out any head damage, especially because the film is B & W. In the slow motion zoom there seem to be some pieces of tissue streaming from the head.

Also of interest to Dick, you can plainly see that what Tink says is XX skull moving across trunk is merely the reflection of Z's pedestal, as I originally assumed. In the film, this happens every time the car passes beneath something light.

I'll probably make some stills from various frames, if you would like them.

Best,

Howard